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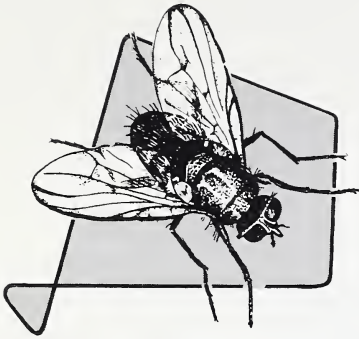
HORN FLIES

on cattle

... how to control them

Leaflet No. 388

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



HORN FLIES on cattle

how to control them

Horn flies are primarily pests of cattle and spend most of their lives on them. They feed by piercing the skin and sucking blood.

Fighting the flies drains an animal's energy and interferes with feeding and resting. An animal may lose as much as half a pound a day during fly season. Milk production may be reduced as much as 20 percent.

Horn flies are present from spring until fall. They sometimes decrease in number during hot, dry weather.

They usually attack the backs of cattle, out of reach of the tail and the swing of the head. Sometimes, to avoid sun or rain, they congregate on the underparts of the animal's body. When the air is cool they often rest on the base of the horns; hence, the name horn flies.

The scientific name of the horn fly is *Haematobia irritans*.

LIFE STAGES

Horn flies resemble house flies but are only about half as large. The females lay their eggs on fresh

manure almost immediately after it is dropped by cattle.

The horn fly egg is oblong and reddish brown. In warm weather the eggs hatch into maggots in less than a day.

The maggot, upon hatching, enters the fresh manure, where it feeds and develops to maturity in about 5 days. When full grown, the maggot changes to the pupal, or resting, stage. It pupates in the dropping in which it developed or on the soil beneath.

The pupa, which is inside a pupal case, develops into a fly in about 7 days. The flies begin to lay eggs in 2 days.

The complete life cycle, from egg to adult, takes only about 2 weeks.

CONTROL

Spraying

Spraying cattle with an insecticide is the best means of control.

For a large number of cattle, power sprayers that operate at 100 to 200 pounds of pressure per square inch are generally most suitable. The sprayer should be equipped

with an agitator to keep the spray well mixed and with an adjustable spray nozzle.

A few head of cattle can be treated with hand-operated air-pressure sprayers of the cylindrical or knapsack type. If the sprayer has no agitator, shake the tank from time to time to keep the insecticide in suspension.

To control horn flies only, spray the animal's shoulders, back, and flanks until they are wet. To control lice and other pests at the same time, spray all parts of the animal thoroughly.

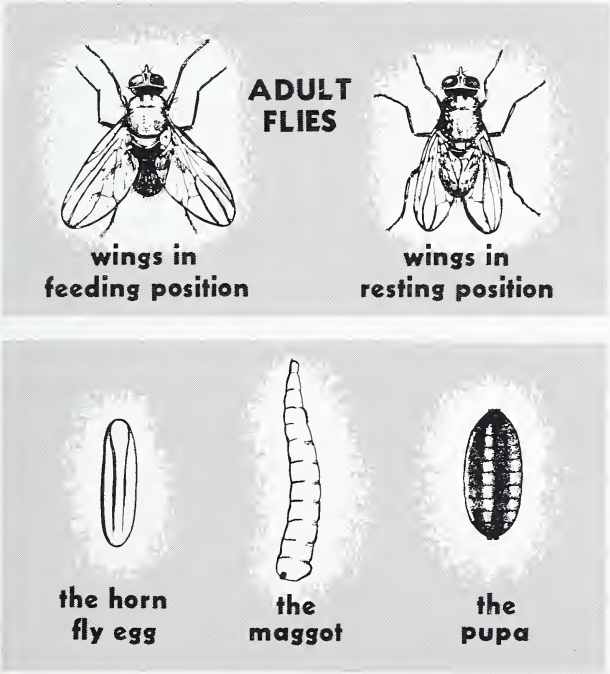
In the directions that follow, recommendations are given for frequency of spraying. If all owners in the community treat their animals, spraying can be less frequent.

For Cattle Other Than Dairy Cows.—Approved insecticides are—

Ciodrin	Methoxychlor
Co-ral	Ronnel (Korlan)
Delnav	Ruelene
Malathion	Toxaphene

Malathion, methoxychlor, ronnel, and toxaphene are available as emulsifiable concentrates or as wettable powders. Ciodrin, Delnav, and Ruelene are available only as emulsifiable concentrates. Co-ral is available only as a wettable powder.

The amount of concentrate or powder needed to make a spray depends on the percentage of actual insecticide in the product you buy. The table on page 5 shows the percentages most commonly found in retail products, the desired strength of each spray (percentage of insecticide in the spray), and the amount



Trade names are used in this publication solely for the purpose of providing specific information. Mention of a trade name does not constitute a guaranty or warranty of the product named and does not signify that this product is approved to the exclusion of other comparable products.

of purchased product that should be mixed with water to prepare a spray of the desired strength.

Apply 2 to 4 quarts of spray to each mature animal. Repeat every 2 or 3 weeks.

For Dairy Cows.—Approved insecticides are—

Ciodrin	Synergized
DDVP	pyrethrum
Lethane 384	Thanite

Apply Ciodrin as a 0.3-percent spray. Mix 5 ounces of 38-percent emulsifiable concentrate in 5 gallons of water to obtain the desired strength. Apply 2 to 4 quarts per animal as needed, *but not oftener than once a week.*

To make a synergized pyrethrum water-base spray, prepare a mixture consisting of—

- 1 part of an emulsifiable concentrate that contains 1 percent of pyrethrins and 10 percent of piperonyl butoxide; and
- 9 parts of water.

Spray about 2 quarts on each animal every 4 or 5 days, or as needed.

Synergized pyrethrum-oil sprays may be applied to the cows at each milking. They will protect the cattle for several hours. Apply the

oil spray in the form of a light mist. Use only 1 or 2 ounces per animal; more may be harmful.

Apply DDVP as a 1-percent mist spray. Purchase a product labeled for such use. Apply 1 to 2 fluid ounces per animal daily.

Lethane 384 and Thanite oil sprays may be applied at a concentration of 3 percent in the same way as synergized pyrethrum-oil sprays. Do not apply more than 2 ounces per day, per animal.

Dusting

You can obtain good control on dairy or beef cattle by applying 1 tablespoonful (about 10 grams) of a 50-percent methoxychlor powder to the back of each animal and rubbing it lightly over the hair. Three tablespoonfuls (1½ ounces) of 5-percent malathion dust or 4 tablespoonfuls of 4-percent malathion dust may be used in the same way, but do not apply during or less than 5 hours before milking. No residue will appear in the milk of an animal that is treated in this manner. Do not apply more frequently than once every 3 weeks.

For beef animals, 5-percent toxaphene dust may be used. This is a time-saving way to protect a few head of cattle from horn flies. Hand-dusting takes only about half a minute per animal.

Dipping

If you prefer to dip beef cattle, use toxaphene, ronnel, or Delnav at the same strength used in sprays. (See table, p. 5.) Use Co-ral at 0.125 percent, or one-half the strength used in sprays.

How To Prepare a Spray for Cattle Other Than Dairy Cows

Insecticide, formulation, ¹ and strength	Percentage of insecticide in spray	Amount of formulation to mix with 5 gallons of water
Ciodrin		<i>Ounces</i>
EC, 38 percent.....	0.3.....	5
Co-ral		
WP, 25 percent.....	0.25.....	6½
Delnav		
EC, 47 percent.....	0.15.....	2
EC, 30 percent.....	0.15.....	2½
Malathion		
EC, 57 percent.....	0.5.....	6
WP, 25 percent.....	0.5.....	13
Methoxychlor		
EC, 25 percent.....	0.5.....	13
WP, 50 percent.....	0.5.....	6½
Ronnel (Korlan)		
EC, 24 percent.....	0.5.....	13
WP, 25 percent.....	0.5.....	13
Ruelene		
EC, 25 percent.....	0.5.....	13
Toxaphene		
EC, 60 percent.....	0.5.....	4½
WP, 40 percent.....	0.5.....	8

¹ WP=wettable powder. EC=emulsifiable concentrate.



M&A 14275

Applying an insecticide dust along the topline of a cow for horn fly control.

Dry dairy cows may be dipped in Co-ral or ronnel at the same strength recommended for beef animals. However, Co-ral should not be used less than 14 days, or ronnel less than 21 days, before freshening.

Mix dips in the vat thoroughly before dipping cattle.

BACKRUBBERS

Cattle can free themselves of horn flies if you provide an insecticide-

treated rubbing unit. Locate the unit near a salt lick or a water trough, or near some other place where cattle loaf or rest.

The rubbing unit consists of a post wrapped with insecticide-treated burlap sacks, or of a cable wrapped with treated burlap sacks and hung between two posts.

The cable may be a length of chain or several strands of heavy wire. Hang the chain or wire at a height of 4 feet between two posts

set 15 to 20 feet apart; let it sag to about 18 inches above the ground midway between the posts. Or run the cable from the top of a 4-foot post to an anchor post at ground level 15 to 20 feet away.

For dairy cows, treat the sacks with an oil solution containing 1 percent of Ciodrin.

A backrubber treated with an oil solution containing 1 percent of ronnel may be used for dry dairy cows. However, use of the backrubbers must be stopped no later than 21 days before freshening.

For beef cattle, use an oil solution containing 5 percent of DDT, toxaphene, or methoxychlor; or 2 percent of malathion; or 1.5 percent of Delnav; or 1 percent of ronnel.

One gallon of oil will treat 15 to 20 linear feet of burlap-wrapped cable. Re-treat the cable every 3 or 4 weeks.

To make a 5-percent oil solution, mix 1 quart of a 25-percent emulsifiable concentrate of the insecticide with 1 gallon of fuel oil, diesel oil,

or kerosene. To make a 1- or 2-percent oil solution, use proportionately less emulsifiable concentrate.

PRECAUTIONS

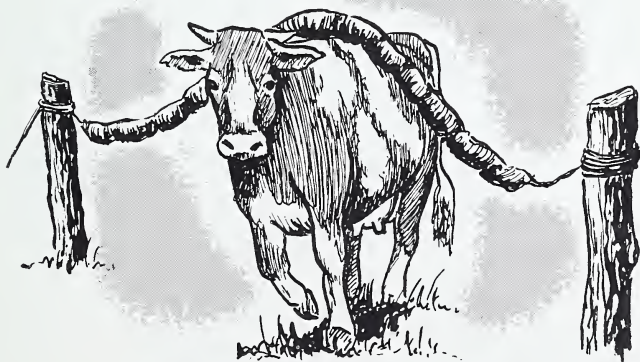
Handle all insecticides with care. Avoid unnecessary exposure while mixing or applying them. If an oil solution is spilled on the skin, wash it off immediately. If you apply an insecticide dust by hand, wash your hands thoroughly as soon as you have finished.

Store insecticides out of reach of children, pets, and livestock.

Do not contaminate feed, feeding utensils, watering troughs, or other places where stock drink, with the insecticide. Do not contaminate wells or other water supply.

When spraying, be sure the insecticide stays well mixed.

Use of certain of the insecticides must be discontinued a specified number of days before slaughter. The following shows the number of days that must elapse between the last use of insecticide and slaughter:



SPRAYING, DUSTING,

OR DIPPING :

Days

Co-ral -----	7
Ruelene -----	28
Toxaphene -----	28
DDT -----	30
Ronnel -----	56

BACKRUBBERS :

Toxaphene -----	28
DDT -----	30
Ronnel -----	42

Certain limitations apply to the freshening time of dairy cows. Read the label to find out the number of days that must elapse between the treatment and freshening.

Follow the precautions under "Dipping" and "Backrubbers" (in this publication) concerning discon-

tinuance of use of insecticide before freshening.

Do not apply Ciodrin sprays oftener than once a week; do not reapply ronnel or Delnav within 3 weeks.

Do not dip calves less than 3 months old in Delnav. Do not use malathion on calves less than 1 month old.

Do not treat animals less than 3 months old with Co-ral; spray animals 3 to 6 months old lightly. Do not use Co-ral with synergized pyrethrins, allethrin, or synergist.

Do not spray or dip recently weaned calves in bad weather. The exposure may kill them.

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